

Application No.: 10/073,943
Attorney Docket No. 1817-0122P
Office Action dated August 11, 2003
Response filed September 11, 2003
Page Two

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-22 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his election of species requirement in view of the remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has set forth an election of species requirement with regard to the present application. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

SPECIES	FIGURES	CLAIMS
I	1-18	1 and 7-21
II	19-22	1-6 and 22

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, Applicant has elected the species of Group I for initial examination. Applicant hereby elects claims 1 and 7-21 for initial examination. The Examiner is respectfully requested to act on the elected claims.

The provisions of 37 CFR 1.146 state that a reasonable number of species are permitted in a single application. The present application contains two species. At this time, claim 1 is generic to both species. Thus, once claim 1 is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully submitted that a reasonable number of species are set forth in the present application and should be on condition for allowance.

Application No.: 10/073,943
Attorney Docket No. 1817-0122P
Office Action dated August 11, 2003
Response filed September 11, 2003
Page Three

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, claims 1 and 7-21 have been initially elected. If the Examiner does persist in his election of species requirement, Applicant reserves the right to proceed with the filing of a divisional application directed to non-elected species at a later date if he so desires.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

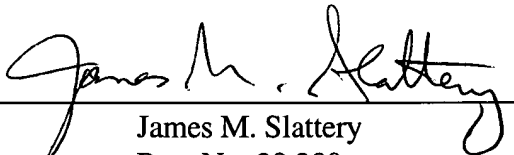
The Examiner has not acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 3, 2002. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 should be sent to the undersigned when responding to the present election. No further action is necessary in connection with this matter.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James M. Slattery
Reg. No. 28,380

JMS/mmi
1817-0122P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000